

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 26421

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, JA, UN,

SUBJECT: JAPANESE SEAT ON UN SECURITY COUNCIL.

REF: A. TOKYO 13012

B. TOKYO 11202

C. PARIS 26420

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR ASIA, DUZER, REPORTED REFTEL C, NO MENTION WAS MADE OF ANY DISCUSSION DURING TANAKA VISIT TO PARIS OF JAPANESE SEAT ON UN SECURITY COUNCIL. EMBOFF ASKED POINTEDLY WHETHER THE SUBJECT HAD BEEN RAISED, AND DUZER SAID THAT IT WAS NOT IN THE OFFICIAL REPORT, AND HAD NOT BEEN RAISED IN CONVERSATIONS HE HAD ATTENDED OR HEARD ABOUT. IT WAS NONETHELESS POSSIBLE THAT IT WAS DISCUSSED, BUT IF SO THERE WAS NO INSISTENT REQUEST FROM TANAKA. DUZER COMMENTED THAT JAPANESE INSISTENCE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN LIKELY SINCE FOREIGN MINISTER OHIRA HAD ALREADY SOUGHT FRENCH SUPPORT DURING THIS TRIP TO PARIS MAY 2. THE GOF HAD THEN REPLIED THAT CHANGES IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL COULD RAISE A HOST OF OTHER PROBLEMS, MANY OF WHICH WOULD BE VERY INTRACTABLE.

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2. DUZER MAY CHECK AGAIN AND PROVIDE US WITH A

FURTHER REPORT ON A DISCUSSION OF JAPANESE SEAT ON UN SECURITY COUNCIL. IN ANY CASE, IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT THE QUAI IS FULLY AWARE OF JAPAN'S VIEW THAT JAPAN IS "ENTITLED TO AND QUALIFIED FOR" PERMANENT SC SEAT (REF B) FROM PREVIOUS CONTACTS. IF THE FRENCH HAD THOUGHT THAT THE GOJ WAS ATTEMPTING TO IMPROVE ITS RELATIONS AT US EXPENSE (REF A), IT WOULD SEEM LIKELY THAT THE SUBJECT OF THE SC SEAT WOULD AT LEAST HAVE EMERGED IN THE OFFICIAL RECORD OF THE TALKS. (ALSO, KATO'S ACCOUNT TO EMBOFF WAS SUCH THAT THE US WAS PROBABLY NEVER MENTIONED BY NAME TO THE FRENCH; KATO CITED THE US TO EMBOFF IN WHAT APPEARED TO BE AN ASIDE NOT CONTAINED IN THE REPORTING CABLE TO TOKYO WHICH APPARENTLY NOTED MERELY THAT "OTHER COUNTRIES" HAD SPOKEN FAVORABLY OF JAPAN'S ACQUIRING A PERMANENT SC SEAT.)

3. FROM THE ADMITTEDLY LIMITED VIEW FROM THE PARIS VANTAGE POINT, IT WOULD SEEM ADVISABLE TO PUSH NO FURTHER FOR CLARIFICATION OF WHAT TANAKA ACTUALLY SAID TO POMPIDOU. WE DO NOT THINK THE JAPANESE MISREPRESENTED THE US POSITION; OUR READING OF KATO TRANSLATION FROM THE JAPANESE REPORTING CABLE DOES NOT AMOUNT TO THE ASSERTION THAT THE US IS THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND JAPAN'S CANDIDACY. WE THINK THE JAPANESE UNDERSTAND THAT EMPHASIS ON THE US ROLE IN SEEKING A PERMANENT SC SEAT FOR JAPAN WOULD NOT ENHANCE THE PROSPECT FOR GOF SUPPORT FOR THE JAPANESE REQUEST. IN ANY CASE THE FRENCH DO NOT SEEM TO MISUNDERSTAND THE SITUATION.

GDS
IRWIN

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